

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### Section I. General

1-1. **PURPOSE.** This manual provides an up-to-date, single source of guidance and technical information relevant to rescue equipment and survival systems and safety policies used on Army watercraft and by Army watercraft personnel.

#### NOTE

Deviations from configurations of equipment presented in this manual are not authorized. To maintain standardization and to preclude the dangers of operating with potentially unsafe equipment, modifications to rescue equipment and survival systems are not authorized.

1-2. **ADMINISTRATION.** Because watercraft units do not have a specific position dedicated to maintenance of rescue and survival equipment, it may be advantageous for the commanding officer to designate, in writing, a person to manage the unit's rescue and survival equipment. It is not intended that this individual actually inspect or maintain the equipment but rather be responsible for administration and coordination of the various requirements set forth in the PMS outlined in this manual. The designated individual should be familiar with this manual and would in effect, become the unit's "expert" for this equipment.

1-3. **CONTENTS.** This manual contains guidance, instructions, technical data, drawings, illustrations, procedures, and descriptions pertinent to the configuration, modification, application, inspection, fabrication, maintenance and repair, and the use of rescue equipment and survival systems. The Transportation Branch Marine Safety Office, Fort Eustis, VA, will formulate, produce, and distribute applicable changes to the equipment and to respective chapters of this manual.

a. **Warnings, Cautions, and Notes.** The following definitions apply to "WARNINGS," "CAUTIONS," and "NOTES" found throughout this manual.

(1) **Warnings.** Operating or maintenance procedures, techniques, and so on that may result in personal injury or loss of life if not carefully followed.

(2) **Cautions.** Operating or maintenance procedures, techniques, and so on that may result in damage to equipment if not carefully followed.

(3) **Notes.** Operating or maintenance procedures, techniques, and so on that are considered essential to emphasize.

b. **Use of the Words “Shall,” “Will,” “May,” and “Should.”** The following definitions apply to the words “shall,” “will,” “may,” and “should” throughout this manual.

(1) ***Shall and will.*** Indicates a mandatory requirement.

(2) ***May and should.*** Indicates an acceptable or suggested means of accomplishment.

1-4. **UPDATING.** This manual will be updated periodically by the issuing of a List of Effective Pages that includes all original, revised, added, and deleted pages. This list will be inserted in the front of each volume, immediately following the title page. Revised and added pages, appropriately dated, will be issued with the change and will be inserted into this volume according to page numbers. The replaced and/or deleted pages and the superseded List of Effective Pages will be discarded. As recommended, interim changes will be submitted for insertion to this manual by the US Army Watercraft Safety Advisory. All directives shall be complied with that are issued after the date of the latest change. These directives will be incorporated into the next change or revision of this manual.

1-5. **COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.** Comments or recommendations concerning this manual may be submitted directly to Commander, USATC&FE, ATTN: ATZF-CSS (Marine Safety Office), Fort Eustis, VA 23604-5113.

1-6. **SUPPLEMENTARY PUBLICATIONS.** The following publications supplement this manual:

- CFR 33. Navigation and Navigable Waters.
- CFR 46. Shipping.
- AR 56-9. Watercraft.
- COMDTINST M16672.2C. Navigation Rules, International-Inland.
- FM 55-501. Marine Crewman's Handbook.
- FM 55-501-1. Landing Craft Operator's Handbook.
- FM 55-501-2. Harbor Craft Crewman's Handbook.
- COMDINST M104470.10C, Coast Guard Rescue and Survival Systems Manual.
- Naval Ship's Technical Manual.

## Section II. US Army Policy and Procedures

1-7. **GENERAL.** Procedures for the use of rescue and survival equipment and systems are contained in AR 56-9. Policies and procedures pertaining to all other aspects of the equipment and systems are stated in this manual.

1-8. **ALLOWANCE.** Allowances of rescue and survival equipment are determined by the type of vessel and mission. Additional equipment may be required to provide for passengers and maintenance. Specific allowances may be found in the appropriate watercraft basic issue items TB. Commanding officers should establish appropriate allowances of rescue and survival equipment to ensure adequate quantities and proper fit where applicable.

1-9. **INSPECTIONS.** Conduct the following inspections for personal protective equipment and rescue and survival equipment.

a. **Personal Protective Equipment Inspection.** A 180-day inspection cycle has been established for ALL personal protective equipment. This inspection accomplishes the following:

- Protects crew members against the dangers of operating with potentially unsafe equipment.
- Ensures the latest equipment modifications are incorporated.
- Provides a ready evaluation of maintenance.
- Enables units to attain maximum operating efficiency and safety.

Although personal safety items are inspected by the wearer before use, commanding officers are encouraged to inspect such items to ensure compliance with this manual. This inspection may be in the form of a personnel inspection, with crew members wearing their survival equipment.

b. **Rescue and Survival Equipment Inspection.** All other rescue and survival equipment will be subjected to periodic inspections, maintenance, and testing in accordance with the applicable chapters of this manual. As these tasks are the primary means of keeping survival equipment in proper working order, instances of carelessness or willful neglect should not pass unnoticed.

1-10. **PROCUREMENT DATA.** Each chapter provides a list and requisitioning information on the rescue and survival equipment used by watercraft units and personnel. The list is not intended to restrict material or quantities needed, but to recommend items believed to be the best currently available. All stock procurement data must be verified by current supply directives and references before any procurement requests are processed. Always use applicable parts lists and current cross references to ensure procurement of the actual item requested.